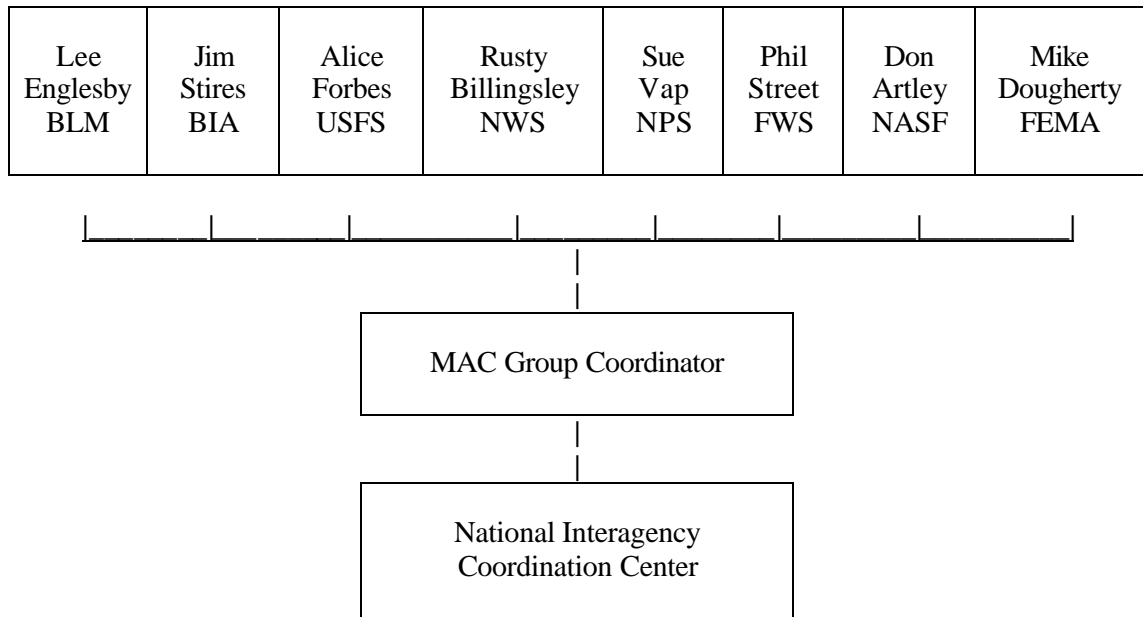


31 NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING (NMAC) GROUP ORGANIZATION

During National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5 the National MAC Group is activated and twice daily briefings are conducted to establish national priorities and provide national leadership and direction to wildland fire activities.



31.1 NIFC DIRECTORS' DELEGATIONS

The FS, BLM, BIA, NPS, FWS, NASF, and FEMA Directors at NIFC have written delegated authority from their respective agency heads to:

Represent their agency on all matters related to wildland fire operations. This includes membership on the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group; determining national priorities and allocating/re-allocating incident resources.

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32 MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUPS (MAC)

MAC Groups at the National and Geographic Area level should be activated in accordance with Preparedness Levels found in the National or Geographic Area Mobilization Guides. As the number and complexity of wildfires increase, involvement and/or impact on agencies increases, and competition for resources increases, it becomes necessary to expand the normal coordination system to ensure efficient use of national and critical resources. There may be a need for Geographic Areas to activate their MAC Groups when the National Fire Preparedness Level is at 5 enabling Geographic Area response to requests and direction from the National MAC Group.

Responsibilities of the National MAC Group:

- Determine and set national priorities.
- Acquire, allocate, and reallocate resources between Geographic Areas.
- Provide policy modification and direction for procedures, standards, and methods.
- Coordinate information and situation assessments between agencies and publics.

Responsibilities of Geographic Area MAC Groups:

- Determine and set Geographic Area priorities.
- Acquire and allocate resources.
- Issue coordinated situation assessment statements.

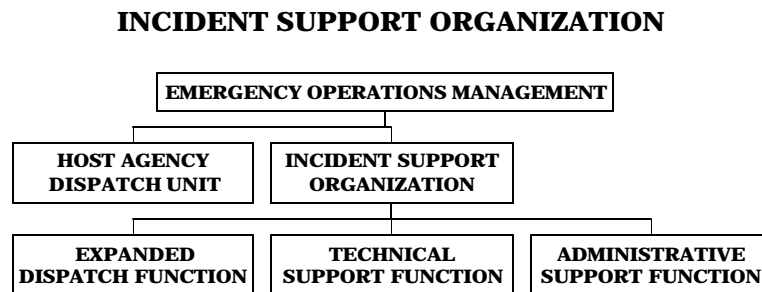
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33 INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Agency administrators are responsible for emergency operations. They provide general guidance and interact with the MAC Group. Typically some or all of their responsibilities are delegated to personnel who can devote more complete attention to the situation. Often the unit Fire Management Officer (FMO) has responsibility for the **Incident Support Organization (ISO)** and as a representative on the local MAC Group. Routine initial attack and other dispatch functions continue, but are separated from the ISO. Each office shall maintain a dispatch operating plan which will include authorities, roles, and responsibilities for expanded dispatch personnel, procedures for routine and emergency operations, the resource order process, job aids and references for the integration of buying teams and sources of supply.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s). The ISO is implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart.

The ISO reports to the agency administrator and is composed of functional branches, **Expanded Dispatch**, **Technical Support**, and **Administrative Support**. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).



33.1 The **Expanded Dispatch** function of the ISO relieves the host agency's dispatch unit by focusing exclusively on the large or complex incident(s).

Expanded Dispatch Functional Areas:

- A. Overhead
- B. Crews
- C. Aircraft, Logistical
- D. Equipment
- E. Supplies

The volume of orders and complexity of the incident(s) determines staffing levels and the degree of expertise required of the expanded dispatch organization. In less complex situations, one dispatcher can handle more than one functional area. Additional personnel may also work within the expanded dispatch, such as data entry.

The **Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher** is a facilitator accomplishing the direction provided by the Center Manager or Fire Management Officer who has delegated authority from the agency administrator. Facilitation is accomplished by adequately staffing and supervising the operations of the expanded dispatch organization, maintaining positive and effective liaison with the host agency, incident management team(s), and assist in clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the ISO and the host agency dispatch unit as needed. The individual filling this position must be a qualified Expanded Dispatch Supervisory Dispatcher and capable of performing all functions within the expanded dispatch organization.

An Expanded Dispatch Coordinator is normally assigned in the most complex situations; ones where there are considerable external influences affecting the ISO, a local MAC Group is in place, or where span of control within the ISO and/or expanded dispatch becomes an issue.

33.2 The **Technical Support** function of the ISO provides specialized skills which assist off-incident support operations. These can vary from situation to situation. Common technical support functions are: telecommunications, caching of supplies, transportation services, equipment inspection, aviation ramp services, mobilization or demobilization center management, and security. In many situations, full time staffing of these support skills is unnecessary. If the situation requires more attention, it may become a full time responsibility for the duration of the incident(s).

33.3 The **Administrative Support** function of the ISO provides administrative services for the host agency, ISO, and incident(s). These can vary from situation to situation. Common technical support functions are: equipment and personnel timekeeping services procurement services such as a buying team, hiring of local ADs or casual employees, follow-up on local compensation and claims actions, providing fiscal advice and vendor payments.

An Incident Business Advisor (IBA1, 2 or 3) may be ordered by the agency administrator to assist with incident business.

33.4 MAC Group Coordinator. The MAC Group Coordinator should only be assigned when a MAC Group is activated. The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator for multi-agency decision making. The position provides expertise in obtaining and summarizing multi-agency information to affect collective decisions at the MAC Group level and implementing agencies' priorities.

Responsibilities:

- A. Ensures MAC Group decisions are communicated and implemented through established dispatch ordering channels.

B. Arrange for and manage facilities and equipment necessary to support the MAC Group function.

C. Facilitate the MAC Group decision process by ensuring the analysis and display of information that will assist the MAC Group or their representatives in keeping abreast of the total situation. Provide the data necessary for astute priority setting, allocation of resources and other collective decisions.

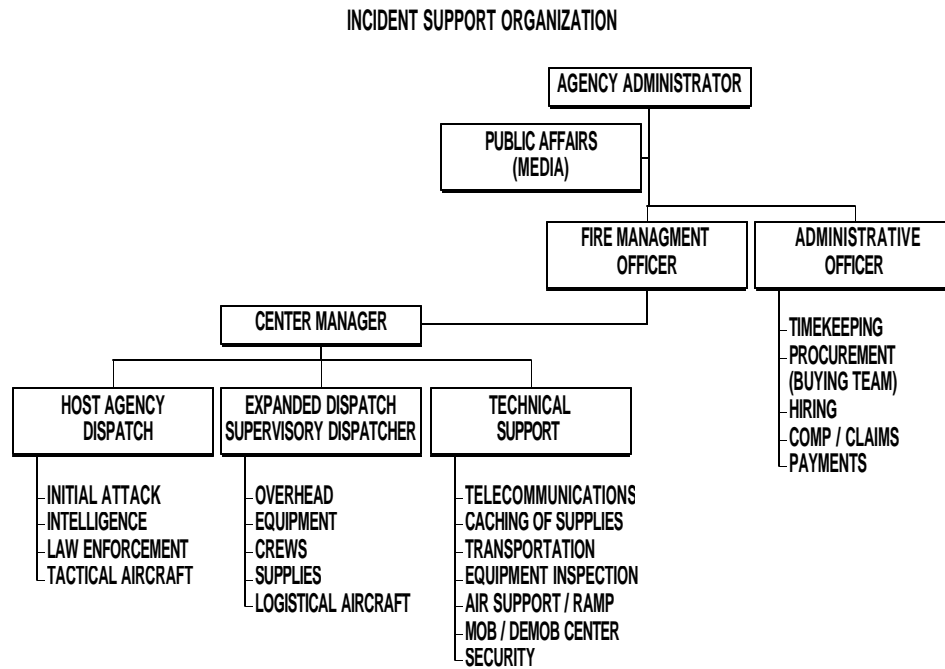
33.5 Complexity. An increase in complexity usually requires more involvement with management. Examples of complex situations are: multiple problem fires, multiple agency involvement, or when competition for resources is high. MAC Groups may be activated in the most complex situations or directed by a preparedness level. They provide direction to off-incident coordination and support (see chapter 32). Basic actions of a MAC Group are priority setting, allocating resources, and issuing coordinated situation assessments to the media. MAC Groups occur at all levels of the organization.

Communications to and from the incident(s) are accomplished through the host agency's dispatch unit using established dispatch channels. This includes ICS-209s, supplemental intelligence worksheets, situation assessments, analysis, prognosis, and fire behavior/weather information. Agency administrators will communicate policy and specific directions directly to the Incident Commander(s) and public affairs will contact the Incident Information Officer(s) for media information and/or releases. Redundant contacts are to be avoided.

33.6 EXAMPLE ORGANIZATIONS. ISOs are implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are to be based on need rather than a preconceived organizational chart (see ISO charts, Chapter 30, Sections 33.7 and 33.8).

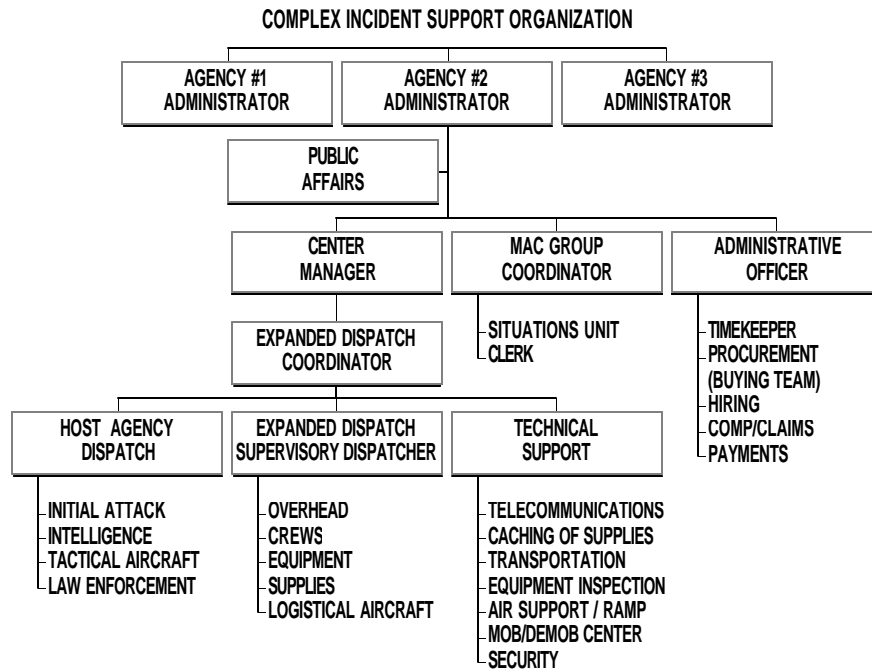
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33.7 Incident Support Organization, Example



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33.8 Incident Support Organization, Example Complex Incident



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